

**TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE**  
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**July 1, 1971**

**Henry:**

**Re: Contingency Statement in the Event Side Trip**  
**is Compromised**

Should your side trip surface, confirmation of the trip should be made from Washington following clearance with the President. It is anticipated that members of the party will refrain from any comment. If they are confronted with direct questions, their response should be "no comment." In the event of known compromise, General Haig or Colonel Kennedy should be informed immediately of the circumstances. Only in the case of a confirmed compromise and after approval of the President, we would propose to release the following statement from the Western White House:

"Dr. Kissinger is meeting with leaders of the Peoples Republic of China at their request. There will be a statement after Dr. Kissinger returns and reports to the President."

In the event of speculation which would quite naturally precede a confirmed leak, there should be continued stonewall denial and sticking to the cover story of a visit to the Hill Station in response to any speculation. Before the contingency statement is made, Dr. Kissinger will be informed and his agreement obtained.

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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